

**FAX RECEIVED**In the Claims:

APR 17 2003

Cancel claim 2.

**GROUP 3600****Official**

Claim 1 (amended). A method for transferring an article, in particular a nuclear fuel element, the method comprises:

providing a fluid-filled first vessel and a fluid-filled second vessel, the interiors of the vessels connected by a connecting element, the connecting element having a first part facing the first vessel and a second part facing the second vessel; and a transport device for moving the article through the connecting element;

maintaining a first fluid flow out of the first vessel into the first part of the connecting element;

maintaining a second fluid flow flowing out of the second vessel in a second part of the connecting element; and

transporting the article through the connecting element with the first and second fluid flows being maintained.

Claim 3 (amended). The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

providing a first opening of the connecting element in the first vessel and a second opening of the connecting element in the second vessel; and

setting an essentially identical static pressure before the first fluid flow and the second fluid flow are generated.